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SOME PROBLEMS OF THE INDUSTRIAL CHEMIST¹

THIS address or talk is the outcome of a conversation with Professor Dennis a couple of months ago. After a rather prolonged discussion of many phases of industrial chemistry of mutual interest to both of us, he very kindly suggested that you as students and workers in chemistry might be glad to hear some of these same problems discussed in the same way. I am particularly happy to undertake this task because for six years I was a part of the university here and looked at chemical problems from what I may collectively call the university point of view, while for the last nearly four years I have been engaged in looking at these problems mainly from their commercial side. Due to a combination of circumstances, it was necessary for me to assume responsibility in manufacturing chemicals along lines I had never anticipated, and to come into intimate contact with every phase of the history of these chemicals, including their sale. A further combination of circumstances has put me into intimate touch with many industries not primarily chemical, but, being users of chemicals, they have troubles and call for assistance.

When you leave the university you will, as I have, of course, many times be forced to assume the responsibility of making decisions and giving some kind of a sensible judgment based on inaccurate knowledge

¹ Address given before the Cornell Section of the American Chemical Society, February 27, 1908.